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Docket No.: 101458012US1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Lill et al.

Application No.: U.S. National Phase of  
PCT/US2003/027739

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: FIELD DATA COLLECTION AND  
PROCESSING SYSTEM, SUCH AS FOR  
ELECTRIC, GAS, AND WATER UTILITY  
DATA

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.